

The Louisiana Marathon

Baton Rouge - On January 19-20, 2019, members of GOHSEP participated in the [Louisiana Marathon](#). Participants gathered early on the capitol steps to take pictures with the governor before storms moved in. The 5K was canceled for the day but GOHSEP members continued to participate in the half marathon and full marathon the following day. Overall, it was a great weekend for getting out and becoming more health focused.

The Louisiana Marathon is so much more than a run, it is a culturally rich festival that celebrates both running and the unique and festive culture that defines us. The Louisiana Marathon was established in 2012 with a 2-fold mission. The first was to encourage our community to embrace a more active lifestyle and help us become a healthier, fitter state. The second was to be a major racing event known for it's unique running festival that celebrates passion for the sport of running combined with Louisiana culture.



From The Director



Happy Mardi Gras! I hope you have time to enjoy the holiday.

GOHSEP is beginning to ramp up activities and training as we head into the spring. We will likely see high river levels in some areas like we traditionally do this time of year. We are also in the peak time for other severe weather events such as tornado outbreaks. While we often use this time to prepare, to reconnect with our local partners and to finalize our emergency plans, it is also important for us to never let our guard down for emergency events that include little notice.

We continue to recover from the 2016 floods which impacted 57 of our 64 parishes. The deadline for the FEMA Manufactured Housing Program is quickly approaching. Our staff is helping those families transition into more permanent solutions. GOHSEP continues to play a large role in the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, which is designed to help tackle many long term flood mitigation projects across the state. Due to our excellence in recovery efforts, you may see some new faces joining our recovery veterans. GOHSEP continues to be a prime spot for those looking for experts to help a state or a particular region work through the complicated recovery process. Again, that's often due to our success.

Enjoy your time off for Mardi Gras and let's continue to fight for the people of Louisiana.

- James Waskom

St. John The Baptist Parish Safe Room Project



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH – Parish President Natalie Robottom, her Administrative staff and Council Members Marvin Perrilloux and Larry Sorapuru, and Chief Steve Guidry of the Sheriff's Office were joined by **Mike Steele, David Dancer and**

Tiffany Doucet with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Tommy Brown and Randy Fiveash with Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects, Hunter Prejean with Onshore Construction Company, LLC as well as a host of emergency responders for a **groundbreaking ceremony** to commemorate the start of the **Safe Room project**. Scott Reddoch and Randy Smith with Royal Engineers and Consultants, LLC on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) also attended the ceremony and worked closely with staff on funding the project.

The 4,000 square foot facility at an estimated cost of **\$1.2 million** will complement the existing Emergency Operations Center and serve as a secure location to **house Parish employees, critical staff, first responders and other agencies** as they work disasters and emergencies. "Hurricane Isaac exposed the critical need for a safe place to house employees and officials while working long hours and eating and sleeping in their offices, cars and wherever they could find space," said Parish President Natalie Robottom. "Because we depend so heavily on this group of essential personnel, it is incumbent upon us to provide proper accommodations and shelter while they respond to disasters and lead the recovery process."

Safe rooms are constructed to provide protection against wind forces and the impact of windborne debris, flooding and loss of power. The exterior of the building is funded by \$1,107,000 in **HMGP funds**, which includes a 25% match from the parish. The match and interior of the building are funded through bond issue funds and various

parish budgets including 911 communications and the Office of Fire Services. The grant application process included extensive paperwork submittals and stringent guidelines as teams from the Parish, architecture firm, GOHSEP, FEMA and Royal Engineers and Consultants, LLC worked tirelessly on the design and approval of this project for construction.

"It is critically important for our local emergency officials to have the resources they need to respond to a disaster," said GOHSEP Director **Jim Waskom**. "That includes a safe, secure location for planning and rest for events that could last several days. The use of the Hazard Mitigation money answers that need. We are proud to work with President Robottom and her staff to make this facility part of the parish's emergency complex."

The project is under construction and is expected to be **completed in 12 to 14 months**, weather permitting. When completed, it will house and sleep more than **100 people** at a time.



Parish Profile - Calcasieu and Cameron

Cameron Parish and Calcasieu Parish are Southwest Louisiana's gateway to the Gulf of Mexico. Cameron and Calcasieu Parish both share the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The ship channel was formed by the channelization of the Calcasieu River from Lake Charles to the Gulf of Mexico extending approximately 36 miles with an additional 32 miles extending out into the Gulf. The channel was created to provide deep-water access to maritime commerce. Dozens of industrial plants now line the channel, primarily refineries and petrochemical companies, bringing raw materials in and shipping products out. With the re-



Calcasieu	Founded:	1840
	Named For:	Atakapa word for crying eagle
	Largest City:	Lake Charles
	Total Area:	1,094 sq. miles
	Population (2015):	198,788



Cameron	Founded:	1870
	Named For:	Simon Cameron
	Largest Community:	Hackberry
	Total Area:	1,937 sq. miles
	Population (2017):	6,912



cent addition of natural gas installations, the Calcasieu Ship Channel has become one of the nation's most active "energy corridors." The Calcasieu Ship Channel carries 7.5% of the nation's daily oil consumption. Is home to the nation's sixth largest refinery, and to two of the nation's largest liquefied natural gas facilities. It handles 56 million tons of cargo annually, and stores one third of the U.S.'s strategic petroleum reserve. Cameron Parish is currently looking at plans for the growth of liquefied natural gas facilities in the area. Calcasieu and Cameron Parish hold the Calcasieu Ship Channel, the 12th busiest seaport in the U.S. based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and named by Forbes Magazine as the 7th fastest growing seaport in the nation.

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The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

On the February edition of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast, we hear from **Kevin James**, the newly appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Homeland Security and Interoperability for GOHSEP. He will examine some of the improvements being made in the state's **cyber security** and **emergency communications** fields.



Kevin James



Clay Rives

We also speak with East Baton Rouge Emergency Preparedness Director **Clay Rives**.

He will update us on the ongoing recovery efforts following the **2016 flood** and explain how Baton Rouge is taking a **new approach** to emergency response and recovery in the future.

Subscribe to The GOHSEP **Get A Game Plan Podcast** today.

Find a link at GetA-GamePlan.org or at your favorite podcast store.



The National Emergency Management Basic Academy

The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is a **gateway** for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management. Similar to basic academies operated by the fire service and law enforcement communities, the National Emergency Management Basic Academy will provide a foundational education in emergency management.

The goal of the Basic Academy is to **support the early careers** of emergency managers through a training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts, and practices of cutting-edge emergency management. The Academy provides shared classrooms of adult learners and **skillful instructors** resulting in a **solid foundation** upon which to build further studies and sound decisions.

Audience: The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is designed for **newly appointed emergency managers** with less than three years of experience, including members of State, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security or emergency services programs; nongovernmental organizations, voluntary agencies, or professional organizations; Private sector emergency management offices; College or university emergency management staff; and FEMA, federal partners, military and emergency managers at other departments or agencies.

Classroom Course Requirements:

L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management	(80 hours) 10 days
L0102, Science of Disaster	(approximately 24 hours) 3 days
L0103, Planning: Emergency Operations	(16 hours) 2 days
L0146, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)	(16 hours) 2 days**
L0105, Public Information and Warning	(16 hours) 2 days
Total course hours: 152 hours	

The Preparedness Section Training and Exercise Branch worked on the coordination of bringing the Academy to the State of Louisiana. The National Emergency Management **Basic Academy** is running sessions starting in **December 2018** and concluding in **March 2019** with all of the sessions being held at GOHSEP's Independence Office. The Preparedness Section Training and Exercise Branch is also looking into the possibility of bringing in the **Advanced Academy** which is the next iteration in the FEMA National Emergency Management Academy, and also another Emergency Management Basic Academy at some point in the near future.

For more information on the National Emergency Management Basic Academy contact:

Jesse Hines, Phone: (225) 925-7699
 Preparedness Officer, Training Email: jesse.hines@la.gov
gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule



New St. Helena OHSEP Director Appointed



Mr. Michael Martin has been appointed as the new OHSEP Director for St. Helena Parish. Ms. Toni Melton has returned to her position as Deputy Director. Michael worked for the St. Helena Parish sheriffs office for 35 years and retired October 31, 2016. He currently resides in Greensburg and has three boys and a girl.

Contact Michael at:
 (225) 222-3544
martinays@yahoo.com
sthelenaparish.la.gov/oep.aspx



2019 Severe Weather Awareness Week

BATON ROUGE (February 15, 2019) – **Gov. John Bel Edwards** has signed a proclamation marking the week of **February 17th to February 23rd** as “Severe Weather Awareness Week” in Louisiana. The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the National Weather Service (NWS) and other partners at the local, state and federal level encourage the public to **Get A Game Plan** to protect themselves, their families and their homes in the event of severe weather.

“Some severe weather events happen with little notice in Louisiana,” said GOHSEP Director **James Waskom**. “That can cause dangerous conditions to develop quickly and having your personal emergency plans in place can save lives. GOHSEP and our partners use this time to provide critical information to the public on various weather threats in Louisiana and to provide steps you can take to prepare now. Check out GOHSEP’s Facebook and Twitter accounts starting Sunday. We hope you use this information to prepare now, before you face a weather related emergency. Stay **weather aware** by knowing your forecast and take time to learn the meaning of weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service and other weather experts in the media.”

“Now is the time to review your severe weather plans as we enter the spring months, when severe weather is the most common,” said Warning Coordination Meteorologist - NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge **Frank Revitte**. “Knowing safety rules and having a **severe weather safety plan** can allow you to act quickly when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms rapidly develop. A **WATCH** means conditions are favorable for severe weather or flooding and you should be alert to rapidly changing weather conditions. A **WARNING** means take safety action as severe weather has been detected by radar or reported.”

GET A GAME PLAN: (www.getagameplan.org)

Families and individuals should have an **emergency plan** that outlines what they will do if they have to shelter in place because of severe weather and what they will do if they have to evacuate during severe weather.

Sheltering in place means going indoors, closing all windows and doors and staying put until the severe weather has passed and the all clear has been given by your local government.

You can get **safety information** from your local government through the local media, on a battery operated radio or through your parish’s alert system.

Evacuating requires that individuals and families have a plan for where they will go if their homes are unsafe.

Identify several friends, family members or others that you can stay with during an evacuation. Remember: when severe weather hits, your original evacuation place may not be available, so you should have a backup plan.

An important part of every family or person’s severe weather plan is packing an **emergency kit** that includes the items they will need in case they have to shelter in place or evacuate because of severe weather.

This kit should include, among other supplies: flashlights, extra batteries, a battery-powered radio and lantern, a first aid kit, canned food and a non-electric can opener, special medical items for any members of the family with special needs, high energy foods like peanut butter and jelly, crackers and granola bars, a utility knife, plastic sheeting, protective clothing and rainwear, a change of clothes for each family member and at least three gallons of water per person and pet.

Gathering supplies in one place will help families locate them in the event of a power outage. If a family must leave its home, the kit can go with them.

New Pointe Coupee OHSEP Director



Mark Ward, who was the Assistant OHSEP Director for Pointe Coupee has now been appointed as OHSEP Director for Pointe Coupee Parish and now works for the Parish President as the Parish Director of Administration and the OHSEP Director.

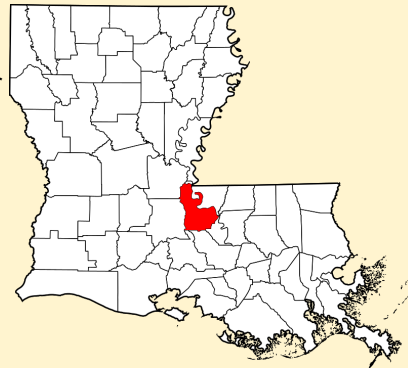
Mark has 18 years of military service and has been with the Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness for the last four years. The office formerly fell under the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff’s Office but with the shift will now be part of the Pointe Coupee Parish government.

Contact Mark at:

Office Phone: (225) 638-9556, ext 201

Email: mward@pcparish.org

www.pcpolicejury.org/home.aspx



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov

Shaway'ne Preston (Public Assistance Closeout)	02/01
Earl Ancar III (Public Assistance Grants)	02/02
Melvin Smith (Public Assistance)	02/02
Karen Matthews (Recovery Grants Administration)	02/04
Lynne Browning (Public Assistance)	02/04
Chaston Dixon (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	02/05
Chad Laborde (Public Assistance Grants)	02/07
James Richard (Technical Services)	02/07
Robin Kennard (Public Assistance)	02/07
Michael Steele (Executive)	02/10
Miranda Levey-Young (Public Assistance Grants)	02/11
Camilla Guercio (Facility Management)	02/12
Gentle Johnson (Facility Management)	02/13
Joseph Costello (Public Assistance SALs)	02/13

Carla Richard (Legal Services)	02/16
Marcella Horne (Public Assistance SALs)	02/17
Jason Lachney (Operations)	02/18
Lindsay Nizzo (State Management Cost)	02/18
Hannah Codjoe (Public Assistance Grants)	02/24
Jae Huh (Hazard Mitigation Technical Services)	02/24
Jeffery Giering (Hazard Mitigation Technical Services)	02/24
Amanda Killeen (Public Assistance Grants)	02/25
William Davis (PART)	02/25
Nancy Gray (Public Assistance Grants)	02/26
Bradley Schoen (Public Assistance Closeout)	02/28
Diane Ayers (Recovery Grants Administration)	02/28
Leanne Guidry (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	02/28

UPCOMING EVENTS

To sign up or for more information about the training, visit: gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule

TRAINING

February 28, 2019	G-0775 Emergency Operations Center Management & Operations - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 6-7, 2019	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Madisonville, Louisiana
March 13-14, 2019	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Metairie, Louisiana
March 18-19, 2019	Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Training (HSEEP) - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 19, 2019	MGT-324 C Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response & Recovery - Grambling, Louisiana
March 19, 2019	G-0775 Emergency Operations Center Management & Operations - Lafayette, Louisiana
March 20-21, 2019	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Lake Charles, Louisiana
March 20-21, 2019	L0105- Public Information & Warning - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 28-29, 2019	PER-211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events - Shreveport, Louisiana
April 10, 2019	Region 3: Annual Hurricane & Tropical Weather Coordination Meeting - Thibodaux, Louisiana
April 30, 2019	Community Exercise-River & Bayou Parishes Mutual Aid & Assistance Task Force - Morgan City, Louisiana
May 6-7, 2019	MGT-439 Pediatric Disaster Response & Emergency Preparedness - New Orleans, Louisiana
May 9, 2019	ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System - Lake Charles, Louisiana
May 9-10, 2019	MGT-439 Pediatric Disaster Response & Emergency Preparedness - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
May 13, 2019	DHS Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop - Lake Charles, Louisiana
May 13, 2019	AWR-313 Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition & Response - Lake Charles, Louisiana

OTHER

February 25-March 3, 2019	Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes (ICCOH)- Raleigh, North Carolina
March 13, 2019	Grand Gulf Graded Nuclear Exercise- Louisiana/Mississippi
March 19, 2019	Region 1 Severe Tropical Weather Coordination Meeting - New Orleans, Louisiana
April 2- April 7, 2019	LANG Disaster Response Exercise (DRX) - Louisiana
April 10, 2019	Region 3 Hurricane Preparedness Coordination meeting - Thibodaux, Louisiana
April 22-25, 2019	The National Hurricane Conference - New Orleans, Louisiana
May 13-16, 2019	Louisiana Emergency Management Conference (LEMC) - Lake Charles, Louisiana

PROMOTIONS

Chad Hargon

Problem Resolution Officer 1, Public Assistance Grants

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Mardi Gras Day - March 5, 2019**Good Friday** - April 19, 2019

NEW AGENCY HIRES

Ben Martino

State Applicant Liaison, Hazard Mitigation

Chris Olvey

State Applicant Liaison, Hazard Mitigation

Maria Medina

Preparedness Officer, Emergency Management

Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact:

Your designated Agency Representative or Mike Steele

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